

# PROGRAM CRITERIA

## Required Program Contents

Each YA/WBL program **shall**

- Have strong employer commitment and involvement;
- Enroll students at the end of the 10th grade into a three- to four-year YA/WBL program of study that begins in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and ends with the attainment of a postsecondary associate degree, certificate, and/or completion of a traditional apprenticeship;
- Provide high-quality supervised learning opportunities for students at the work site;
- Integrate academic and vocational teaching and learning in the classroom and at work;
- Foster interactive, team-based learning in the classroom, using competency-based measures for evaluating student progress;
- Provide both academic and occupational credentials;
- Provide access and support to nontraditional groups; and
- Explicitly address issues presented by diversity in society and the workplace.

## Approved Occupations and Industry Employers

The industries and occupations selected for this program must offer entry-level jobs with good opportunities for career advancement into high-skill, high-wage jobs. DWE, the State Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee, and local sites will take joint responsibility for identifying these industries and occupations. The State Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee will take responsibility for identifying traditional apprenticeship programs that are currently in place. **Approval of new apprentice program areas must be submitted 60 days prior to requested date.**

## Career Focus Program of Study

A YA/WBL career focus program of study is a coherent sequence of **rigorous** academic and technical courses and structured work-based learning components that prepares students for **successful** completion of state academic standards and more advanced postsecondary education and work experiences related to their career cluster of interest. This program of study **must** combine the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades of high school and a postsecondary associate degree, certificate, and/or traditional apprenticeship. The career focus **must** be designed around one of the 16 U.S. Department of Education career clusters, the KUDER assessments, and the Arkansas 'Smart Core'. **Entry into the YA/WBL program**

**requires a career focus program of study signed by the student, parent, and instructor.**

**U.S. Department of Education Career Clusters:**

1. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
2. Architecture and Construction
3. Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications
4. Business, Management, and Administrative Services
5. Education and Training
6. Financial Services
7. Government and Public Administration
8. Hospitality and Tourism
9. Health Science
10. Human Services
11. Information Technology
12. Law, Public Safety, and Security
13. Manufacturing
14. Marketing, Sales, and Services
15. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
16. Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

**Structured Plan for Student Learning**  
**(Work-based Learning Plan)**

A structured plan for student learning is developed by the classroom instructor and workplace mentor and outlines the **individual** student's learning in the workplace with progressively higher levels of work experience accompanied by training and mentoring along with wage progression. The plan identifies work placements by the employer that engage the student in all aspects of the industry through job rotations and in structured learning opportunities that meet program/career learning objectives and clarifies the legal rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of the partners. **This plan must be signed by the employer, instructor, and student before the student begins the apprentice position with the employer.**